

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5730

INFO AMCONSUL ZAGREB

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 1271

DEPARTMENT PASS EUR/EE FOR AMBASSADOR SILBERMAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, YO, US

SUBJECT: FIRST CONTACT WITH NEW ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR WESTERN
EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

1. NEWLY NAMED FSFA ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR WESTERN EUROPE AND
NORTH AMERICA DRAGAN BERNARDIC CALLED IN CHARGE ON FEBRUARY 25
TO MAKE PRESENTATION ON YUGOSLAV-BULGARIAN RELATIONS (SEPTTEL).
HE TOOK OCCASION ALSO TO MAKE STRONG AND APPARENTLY SINCERE
PITCH FOR GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. BERNARDIC SAID HE
LOOKED FORWARD TO MEETING AMBASSADOR SILBERMAN AFTER HE
RETURNS TO BELGRADE. HE SAID THAT HE WANTS "OPEN
COOPERATIONS" WITH THE UNITED STATES AND "I WILL DO EVERYTHING
I CAN TO ELIMINATE MARGINAL PROBLEMS". HE ADDED "WE WON'T
ALWAYS AGREE, BUT WE WILL UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER WELL".

2. BERNARDIC SPEAKS GOOD, BUT NOT PERFECT, ENGLISH.

3. COMMENT: BERNARDIC MADE GOOD FIRST IMPRESSION, BUT IT
REMAINS TO BE SEEN JUST WHAT HE DEFINES AS "MARGINAL PROBLEMS".
SWEITZER

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NNN

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